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this legislation was on the docket in Washington, DC, and over a weekend it got removed by the powerful lobby back there. They're not going to...if we don't put their feet to the fire, they're not going to do anything. We have to continue the course we've started and we're doing it right. I want to quote something that Senator Kerrey told us at our committee hearing. He said, if you want competition and independent entrepreneurs there making decisions you have to change the law. Otherwise, they simply are not going to be able to, by themselves, to survive. They do not have enough economic power to be able to have any influence over the decisions that are vital to them, in this case, the decision about what the price is going to be. He went on to say, if you don't want independent producers, if you like the trend towards more and more vertical integration with farmers merely signing on as a sort of contract laborer, if you like that kind of a trend that's where the market's taking us. That's where we're going. The body clearly endorsed the belief that these changes need to be made at the time the bill was advanced from General File. An amendment was added last week which clarified and will help the enforcement of the constitutional prohibition against packer feeding of livestock, except for five days preceding slaughter. The passage of legislation in Nebraska says to Washington, this is a real problem that needs to be addressed. implementation date of this legislation says to Washington, this is a real problem that needs to be addressed next year. Let's analyze what happened in Iowa. Iowa lawmakers passed price reporting legislation last week. Reporting is to begin, after amendments to the legislation, in July of 2000. Iowa lawmakers have, in effect, told their ag producers that they have to hang on for 15 more months. Iowa lawmakers have, in effect, delayed action long enough for a packer repeal effort in their 2000 Iowa has said, let's wait and see what Washington session. Iowa has said, let's gamble the success of our producers on the hope that Congress will successfully implement these I believe that the level of provisions at the federal level. impact that Iowa law will have on federal legislation will be absolutely minimal, if there's any impact at all. I have two problems with waiting for the federal response. First, I'm not comfortable with the amount of influence lobbyists have on policymakers. I'm not going to pretend that such influence isn't present in Nebraska. You're seeing it this morning. It